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## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to optical communications networks, and particularly though not exclusively to an optical network topology especially suitable for metro access. The present invention provides a communications network comprising two complementary optical networks each connectable to a headend, each optical network comprising a plurality of splitters or couplers serially connected by optical waveguides such that an output port of one splitter/coupler is coupled to an input port of another splitter/coupler, and wherein an input or output node of the network is formed by a non-serially connected input or output port of a said splitter or coupler from each said optical network.